

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The recent changes in the Czechoslovak government do not indicate a Czech deviation from the Communist ideology or a triumph of the Czech nationalist faction of the Communist Party over the "Moscow" Communists. The Soviet-aligned Czech Communists lost power only in such individual cases as Rudolf Slansky. The chief cause of the reorganization was the interference on the part of the CP General Secretariat in the technical functions of the various ministries. No current political issue was at stake.
2. According to rumors current in several quarters, high-ranking Soviet officials visited Prague to deliver orders from the Kremlin for Slansky's reassignment and the subsequent governmental changes. Slansky is on the way out. In a secret letter sent to all provincial Communist Party secretaries, seven leaders of the Czech CP (1) discussed Slansky's reassignment in a manner showing that Slansky had abused his authority in the events leading up to the reshuffle and had issued orders not within his competence. It is expected that the provincial secretaries will respond to this letter by issuing resolutions condemning Slansky, challenging his present position and demanding further investigation of his case. If the central committee of the Party deems the time ripe, it will then have a pretext for removing Slansky. (2) It is rumored that because of his record as a Communist, Slansky will be allowed to emigrate to the USSR after his dismissal.
3. The shake-up in the Communist Party has also weakened the positions of Bedrich Gerinder, leader of the pro-Soviet faction in the Party, Gustav Pares, Pavil Rajmann (3), Hendrych and Landa, formerly special representatives of the CP Secretary General. The new structure of the Party emphasizes Party units based on the place of employment of the members rather than on the place of residence. One reason for this change is that the local Party organizations have alienated the local populations by aggressive pressure tactics in recruitment of members, fund drives and so forth. The chain of command under the new structure will be the same as that under the old.
4. Party leaders feel that the time has come for weeding opportunists out of the Party. (4) The following Czech ministers, although strong Communists, emphasize professional competence rather than political reliability in employing technicians: (5)

Prime Minister Antonin Zapotocky
Chairman of the State Planning Office Jaromir Dolansky
Minister of Finance Jaroslav Kabes
Minister of Heavy Industry Emanuel Slechta

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The following ministers conform to the Communist Party line and hire staff members of their ministries on the basis of political reliability with a noticeably adverse effect on the efficiency of the ministries:

Minister of Foreign Trade Antonin Gregor (6)
Minister of Foreign Affairs Vilem Siroky
Minister of Domestic Trade Frantisek Krejci
Minister of Education Zdenek Nejdely (6)

The following ministries have Soviet "adjutants" who operate the ministries according to direct Soviet orders:

Minister of Interior Vaclav Nosek
Minister of National Security Ladislav Kopriva
Minister of Justice Stefan Rais
Minister of National Defense Alexej Cenicka (2)

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